

unusually low for the number of applications received.

Frankly, these things would move us toward a system which would give more credence to the current process of presenting identification. I don't mind standing in line at airports. Last week, I was at Chicago Midway, and I twice stood in lines for a half hour each to present my identification and plane ticket. That is part of the cost of making certain that when I got on that airplane, it was safe. I think people all across America understand that. It is sad, and I wish it weren't the case, but it would be sadder still if the wrong person using fake documents got on the plane and ended up endangering many innocent lives. But if this process is worth anything, and if it is going to work, the identification presented has to be valid and validated. That is why this effort is so important.

I have discussed this in terms of terrorism and security, but two other aspects should be mentioned. All across America now, we have problems with drunk driving. Fortunately, the percentage of drunk drivers has gone down dramatically in this country, and I give credit to effective law enforcement, as well as to organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD). They have changed the climate and environment, advocating designated drivers and a more responsible use of alcohol. Even some of the beer and alcoholic beverage companies have gone that extra step to try to advertise the dangers of drinking and driving, and the need to be suspicious of those who do.

The biggest problem we face here is the number of young people under 21 who are easily able to obtain phony driver's licenses and identifications who can then purchase alcohol. Once they purchase and consume it and end up in an intoxicated state, they endanger their lives and others. If we toughen the standards by which States issue these driver's licenses, and if we go after the manufacturers and marketers of fake documents with heavy penalties, and if we make the cards more resistant to counterfeiting, then I believe we can diminish the likelihood that a young person will end up with a phony license or identification, buy alcohol, and cause a death in the process.

The next area I will mention is one that I know personally—identity theft. You may not be aware of the fact that this is the largest growing consumer fraud complaint in America. Last year, at the Federal Trade Commission, 204,000 complaints were filed for a variety of deceptive practices, and 42 percent of them related to identity theft. This means that in just one year, close to 100,000 Americans were victimized when somebody took their name and their information and did something with it without their approval. It has happened to me as a Member of the Senate. I got a call a couple of years ago at home, and they said:

We finally caught up with you, Richard Durbin. Did you think you were going to avoid this bill you incurred in Denver, Colorado?

I said:

I haven't incurred any bills in Denver, Colorado."

They said:

Yes, you did. You applied for a credit card, and here is your Social Security number. You made several thousand dollars in purchases and you never paid for it.

I said:

It never happened. I never went to that store. I haven't been in Denver, Colorado, for that purpose.

Someone had stolen my identity, and they applied for a local credit card, and they ran up several thousand dollars in purchases. Of course, they didn't make any payments. Eventually, I straightened it out. There are ways to do that although it could take a long time. I give credit to the credit agencies that accepted the truthful information and cleared my credit record.

Identity theft is growing, and part of the scam is to come up with phony documentation. One of the key elements in documentation is your driver's license which is the most widely used form of identification. Once you have that license, doors start to open. You use that phony license to match the name on a stolen credit card, and you are off to the races. It is pretty easy. Sadly, we have to acknowledge that it is a growing problem in America.

So coming up with minimum uniform standards on driver's licenses, making sure that when they are issued, they are truly issued to the person who is applying for them, providing ways to make certain that other States haven't revoked a driver's license when a new State is being asked to issue one, making certain that States improve their internal processes to prevent fraud and abuse, putting in tougher penalties for those who would abuse them, incorporating security features on driver's licenses so they can't be counterfeited—all of these things move us forward to improve our nation's security.

And all of these common sense solutions add up to a process that is far from anything remotely resembling any national identification card. There would not be any new nationally issued cards or databases or tracking systems or collection of sensitive information. There would not be intrusion on privacy—if the FBI needed information about a potential criminal's information contained in his DMV record, they would go through the same process they do today—by going to each State and following the established process to obtain that information.

What I propose is a system where the States would have an incentive to move forward—a better system, more accurate, with more integrity, with ability to work more effectively with other States. I think this is a step in the right direction. I commend my colleagues who have expressed an interest in this issue. In the next several weeks,

we will have a hearing in the Governmental Affairs Committee, where we will bring in people from across the spectrum—law enforcement, State leaders and representatives, those who have been deceived, and those who have had their identity stolen from them.

I will ask them to come together to help us with legislation that will take this commonsense step forward, to make sure that the most commonly used photo identification presented at an airport or a train station or at the bank is really is an indication of true identity of the cardholder.

I yield back my time, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. REED). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, there are discussions underway regarding the impasse we continue to experience on the voter identification amendment and other related issues on the election reform bill. I am probably stating the obvious—but I will make it official—there are no more rollcall votes today. My expectation is the next rollcall vote will be on Monday evening after 6 o'clock. We will set a specific time a little later, but there will be at least a cloture vote on the bill Monday morning, if we have not been able to arrive at any other agreement prior to that time.

Members should be aware they should expect a vote on Monday night, and then certainly Tuesday morning.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:10 p.m., recessed until 1:19 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BAYH).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may speak in morning business for about 12 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.